

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 - 6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 19, wherein said glycosaminoglycan is selected from the group consisting of hyaluronic acid, heparin, heparin sulfate, low molecular weight heparin, dermatan sulfate, chondroitin sulfate, polysulfated glycosaminoglycan, keratan sulfate, salts thereof and derivatives thereof.

8 - 10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 19, wherein said glycosaminoglycan comprise a mixture of molecular weight ranges.

12. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 11, wherein said molecular weight ranges further comprise at least one fraction from 1,000 to less than 50,000 daltons, or from 100,000 to 300,000 daltons.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 19, wherein said glycosaminoglycans range from two different size polymers of the same glycosaminoglycan.

15 - 18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A composition which comprises: a pharmacologically effective amount of at least one orally ingestible or mucosally absorbable glycosaminoglycan, wherein said glycosaminoglycan comprises at least one fraction having a molecular weight in the range of greater than 1,000,000 daltons, as measured using a protein standard/intrinsic viscosity, with the proviso that said composition does not contain an essential oil as an active ingredient, and wherein the complex carbohydrate contains up to 5% by weight protein contaminants, wherein the glycosaminoglycan is present in an amount of between 0.01% and 5.0%wt/vol., and

a carrier selected from the group consisting of a drink, a drink mix, a food, a candy, a mouthwash, a toothpaste, a gargle, a vaporizer liquid, a gum, a lozenge, an ingestible gel, an ingestible foam, an ingestible capsule, a tablet, an ingestible tablet, an ingestible dissolvable tablet, a suppository, and an ingestible nutritional supplement, with the proviso that when chondroitin sulfate is used as the sole glycosaminoglycan, the carrier is not a capsule or an ingestible tablet.

20 - 21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A composition which comprises, ~~as an active ingredient,~~ a pharmacologically effective amount of at least one orally ingestible or mucosally absorbable mixture of molecular weight ranges of at least one glycosaminoglycan, glycosaminoglycans, wherein said molecular weight ranges comprise at least one fraction greater than 1,000,000

daltons as measured using a protein standard/intrinsic viscosity, and wherein the ~~complex carbohydrate~~ at least one glycosaminoglycan contains up to 5% by weight protein contaminants[[,]] and is present in an amount of between 0.01% and 5.0%wt/vol., and

a carrier selected from the group consisting of a drink, a drink mix, a food, a candy, a mouthwash, a toothpaste, a gargle, a vaporizer liquid, a gum, a lozenge, an ingestable gel, an ingestable foam, an ingestable capsule, a tablet, an ingestable tablet, an ingestable dissolvable tablet, a suppository, and an ingestable nutritional supplement.

23. (Currently Amended) A composition which comprises ~~as an active ingredient~~ a pharmacologically effective amount of at least one orally ingestable or mucosally absorbable glycosaminoglycan, wherein said glycosaminoglycan comprises at least one fraction having a molecular weight in the range of greater than 1,000,000 daltons as measured using a protein standard/intrinsic viscosity, wherein said glycosaminoglycan will cause an inflammatory response when injected into owl monkey eyes but will not cause an adverse reaction when applied to the skin of mammals or when delivered orally or mucosally to mammals, and wherein the glycosaminoglycan contains up to 5% by weight protein contaminants[[,]] and is present in an amount of between 0.01% and 5.0%wt/vol., and

a carrier selected from the group consisting of a drink, a drink mix, a food, a candy, a mouthwash, a toothpaste, a gargle, a vaporizer liquid, a gum, a lozenge, an ingestable gel, an ingestable foam, an ingestable capsule, a tablet, an ingestable tablet, an ingestable dissolvable tablet, a suppository, and an ingestable nutritional supplement, with the proviso that when

chondroitin sulfate is used as the sole glycosoaminoglycan, the carrier is not a capsule or an ingestable tablet.

24. (Withdrawn) A method of treatment of inflammation, pain or itching which comprises orally or mucosally administering to a mammal the composition of claim 19.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24, wherein said application is made orally.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24, wherein said oral or mucosal application form is selected from the group consisting of a liquid, an emulsion, a suspension, a cream, an ointment, a gel, a foam, a solid, a powder and a gum.

27. (Withdrawn –Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said inflammation, pain or itching results from arthritis, bursitis, athletic injuries, tendonitis, trauma, gastritis, colitis, esophagitis, bronchitis, sore throat, tonsilitis, tendonitis, fibromyalgia, TMJ, dental pain, bruising, poor circulation, muscle cramps, tired feet, allergies, poison ivy, insect bites/stings, asthma, anaphylaxis, surgery, childbirth, sunburn, burns, edema related to diabetes, decubitus ulcers, superficial cuts and scrapes, open wounds, dry skin, psoriasis, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), plaque formation associated with heart disease and stroke, increased degradation of spinal nerves post spinal cord injury, adhesion formation post surgery, scar formation post surgery, wound healing, ganglion formation, Alzheimer's disease, HIV, wrinkles, and hair loss.

28 - 31. (Cancelled)

32. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) A method for preventing or treating inflammation, pain, or allergy-related diseases and conditions which comprises orally or mucosally administering to a mammal the composition of claim 19.

33. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) A method for preventing or treating inflammation, pain, or allergy-related diseases and conditions which comprises orally administering to a mammal the composition of claim 19.

34. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) A method for preventing or treating inflammation, pain, or allergy-related diseases and conditions which comprises mucosally administering to a mammal the composition of claim 19.

35. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) The method of Claims 33 or 34 wherein the inflammation, pain, or allergy-related diseases and conditions are selected from the group consisting of arthritis, bursitis, athletic injuries, tendonitis, trauma, anaphylaxis, surgery, childbirth, gastritis, colitis, esophagitis, bronchitis, sore throat, tonsilitis, tendonitis, fibromyalgia, TMJ, dental pain, bruising, poor circulation, muscle cramps, tired feet, allergies, poison ivy, insect bites/stings, asthma, sunburn, burns, edema related to diabetes, decubitus ulcers, superficial cuts and scrapes, open wounds, dry skin, psoriasis, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), plaque formation associated with heart disease and stroke,

increased degradation of spinal nerves post spinal cord injury, adhesion formation post surgery, scar formation post surgery, wound healing, ganglion formation, Alzheimer's disease, HIV, wrinkles, and hair loss.

36. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 19, wherein said at least one glycosaminoglycan further comprises a fraction having a molecular weight in the range of from 1,000 to less than 50,000 daltons.

37. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 19, wherein said at least one glycosaminoglycan further comprises a fraction having a molecular weight in the range of from 100,000 to 300,000 daltons.

38 - 40. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently Amended) The composition according to claim 19, wherein the ~~form~~ carrier is selected from the group consisting of a liquid, an emulsion, a suspension, a solution, a cream, a gel, a foam, a solid, a powder, a spray, a gum and an ointment.

42. (Currently Amended) The composition according to claim 23, wherein the ~~form~~ carrier is selected from the group consisting of a liquid, a gel, a solution, a suspension, an emulsion, an ointment, a cream, a solid, a powder, a gum and a spray.

43 - 45. (Cancelled)

46. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 19, wherein said composition is a pain-relieving composition.

47. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 19, wherein said composition is an orally delivered pain-relieving composition.

48. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 19, wherein said composition is a mucosally delivered pain-relieving composition.

49. (Cancelled)

50. (Cancelled)

51. (Previously Presented) The composition of claims 19 or 23, wherein the glycosaminoglycan contains less than 98% by weight hyaluronic acid.

52. (Withdrawn) A method of treatment of inflammation, pain or allergy-related diseases and conditions which comprises mucosally applying to a mammal the composition of claim 19.

53. (Cancelled)

54. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 19, wherein the active ingredient is administered in repeated low doses between 0.0001 mg and 100 mg.

55 - 58. (Cancelled)

59. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 19, wherein said at least one glycosaminoglycan is of a low purity or cosmetic or food grade and further comprises a fraction having a molecular weight in the range of from 1,000 to less than 50,000 or from 100,000 to 500,000.

60 - 65. (Cancelled)

66. (Previously Presented) The compositions according to claims 41 or 42, wherein the vaporizer liquid is a throat spray, the gum is a chewing gum or a dissolvable gum, the lozenge is throat lozenges, and the food is treats or candy.

67 - 68. (Cancelled)

69. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 19, wherein the glycosaminoglycan is a hyaluronic acid or salt or derivative thereof.

70. (Currently Amended) An orally ingested or mucosally absorbed pharmaceutical composition selected from the group consisting of a drink, a drink mix, food, candy, mouthwash, toothpaste, gargle, vaporizer, gum, lozenge, ingestable gel, ingestable foam, ingestable capsule, tablet, ingestable tablet, ingestable dissolvable tablet, suppository, and ingestable nutritional supplement, which comprises ~~as an active ingredient~~ a pharmacologically effective amount of at least one glycosaminoglycan wherein said at least one glycosaminoglycan comprises at least one fraction having a molecular weight range greater than 1,000,000 daltons as measured using a protein standard/intrinsic viscosity, wherein the glycosaminoglycan contains up to about 5% impurities, with the proviso that said composition does not contain an essential oil as an active ingredient, with the proviso that when chondroitin sulfate is used as the sole glycosaminoglycan, the carrier is not a capsule or an ingestable tablet and wherein the at least one glycosaminoglycan is present in an amount of between 0.01% and 5.0%wt/vol.

71. (Cancelled)

72. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 19, wherein said low purity glycosaminoglycan contains up to about 5% impurities, and will cause reactions when injected into owl monkey eyes or joints of horses but will not cause reactions when applied to the skin of mammals or when delivered orally or mucosally to mammals.

73. (Currently Amended) An orally ingested or mucosally-absorbed pharmaceutical composition selected from the group consisting of drink, drink mix, food, candy, mouthwash, toothpaste, gargle, vaporizer, gum, lozenge, ingestable gel, ingestable foam, ingestable capsule, tablet, ingestable tablet, ingestable dissolvable tablet, suppository, and ingestable nutritional supplement, which comprises:

an effective amount of at least one glycosaminoglycan for treating inflammation, wherein said at least one glycosaminoglycan comprises at least one fraction having a molecular weight range greater than 1,000,000 daltons as measured using a protein standard/intrinsic viscosity, wherein said glycosaminoglycan will cause an inflammatory response when injected into owl monkey eyes but will not cause an adverse reaction when applied to the skin of mammals or when delivered orally or mucosally to mammals, and wherein the glycosaminoglycan contains up to 5% by weight protein contaminants, with the proviso that said composition does not contain an essential oil as ~~an~~ the active ingredient, and wherein the at least one glycosaminoglycan is present in an amount of between 0.01% and 5.0%wt/vol.,

wherein said orally ingested or mucosally-absorbed pharmaceutical composition is selected from the group consisting of drink, drink mix, food, candy, mouthwash, toothpaste, gargle, vaporizer, gum, lozenge, ingestable gel, ingestable foam, ingestable capsule, tablet, ingestable tablet, ingestable dissolvable tablet, suppository, and ingestable nutritional supplement, with the proviso that when chondroitin sulfate is used as the sole glycosoaminoglycan, the carrier is not a capsule or an ingestable tablet.

74. (Previously Presented) Drink comprising the composition of claim 73.

- 75. (Previously Presented) Drink mix comprising the composition of claim 73.
- 76. (Previously Presented) Food comprising the composition of claim 73.
- 77. (Previously Presented) Candy comprising the composition of claim 73.
- 78. (Previously Presented) Mouthwash comprising the composition of claim 73.
- 79. (Previously Presented) Toothpaste comprising the composition of claim 73.
- 80. (Previously Presented) Gargle comprising the composition of claim 73.
- 81. (Previously Presented) Vaporizer comprising the composition of claim 73.
- 82. (Previously Presented) Gum comprising the composition of claim 73.
- 83. (Previously Presented) Lozenge comprising the composition of claim 73.
- 84. (Previously Presented) Ingestable gel comprising the composition of claim 73.
- 85. (Previously Presented) Ingestable foam comprising the composition of claim 73.

86. (Previously Presented) Ingestable capsule comprising the composition of claim 73.

87. (Previously Presented) Tablet comprising the composition of claim 73.

88. (Previously Presented) Ingestable tablet comprising the composition of claim 73.

89. (Previously Presented) Ingestable dissolvable tablet comprising the composition of claim 73.

90. (Previously Presented) Suppository comprising the composition of claim 73.

91. (Previously Presented) Ingestable nutritional supplement comprising the composition of claim 73.

92. (Currently Amended) An orally ingested or mucosally absorbed pharmaceutical composition selected from the group consisting of drink, drink mix, food, candy, mouthwash, toothpaste, gargle, vaporizer, gum, lozenge, ingestable gel, ingestable foam, ingestable capsule, tablet, ingestable tablet, ingestable dissolvable tablet, suppository, and ingestable nutritional supplement, which comprises, ~~as an active ingredient,~~ a pharmacologically effective amount of at least one glycosaminoglycan selected from the group consisting of a mixture of molecular weight ranges of hyaluronic acid, wherein said molecular weight ranges comprise at least one

fraction greater than 1,000,000 daltons as measured using a protein standard/intrinsic viscosity, wherein said glycosaminoglycan will cause an inflammatory response when injected into owl monkey eyes but will not cause an adverse reaction when applied to the skin of mammals or when delivered orally or mucosally to mammals, and wherein the glycosaminoglycan contains up to 5% by weight protein contaminants, with the proviso that said composition does not contain an essential oil as an active ingredient, and wherein the at least one glycosaminoglycan is present in an amount of between 0.01% and 5.0%wt/vol.,

wherein said orally or mucosally-administered pharmaceutical composition is selected from the group consisting of drink, drink mix, food, candy, mouthwash, toothpaste, gargle, vaporizer, gum, lozenge, ingestable gel, ingestable foam, ingestable capsule, tablet, ingestable tablet, ingestable dissolvable tablet, suppository, and ingestable nutritional supplement, with the proviso that when chondroitin sulfate is used as the sole glycosaminoglycan, the carrier is not a capsule or an ingestable tablet.

93. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 92, wherein the hyaluronic acid is in a total concentration of between 0.5% and 3.0% wt/vol.

94. (Currently Amended) An orally ingested or mucosally-absorbed pharmaceutical composition selected from the group consisting of drink, drink mix, food, candy, mouthwash, toothpaste, gargle, vaporizer, gum, lozenge, ingestable gel, ingestable foam, ingestable capsule, tablet, ingestable tablet, ingestable dissolvable tablet, suppository, and ingestable nutritional supplement, which comprises ~~as an active ingredient~~ a pharmacologically effective amount of at

least one glycosaminoglycan, wherein said glycosaminoglycan comprises at least one fraction having a molecular weight in the range of greater than 1,000,000 daltons as measured using a protein standard/intrinsic viscosity, wherein said glycosaminoglycan will cause an inflammatory response when injected into owl monkey eyes but will not cause an adverse reaction when applied to the skin of mammals or when delivered orally or mucosally to mammals, and wherein the glycosaminoglycan contains up to 5% by weight protein contaminants, with the proviso that said composition does not contain an essential oil as an active ingredient, and wherein the at least one glycosaminoglycan is present in an amount of between 0.01% and 5.0%wt/vol.,

wherein said orally ingested or mucosally-absorbed pharmaceutical composition is selected from the group consisting of drink, drink mix, food, candy, mouthwash, toothpaste, gargle, vaporizer, gum, lozenge, ingestable gel, ingestable foam, ingestable capsule, tablet, ingestable tablet, ingestable dissolvable tablet, suppository, and ingestable nutritional supplement, with the proviso that when chondroitin sulfate is used as the sole glycosaminoglycan, the carrier is not a capsule or an ingestable tablet.

95. (Cancelled)

96. (Cancelled)

97. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) A method for relieving joint pain or other discomforts associated with osteoarthritis in a mammal comprising the step of delivering to said mammal by oral ingestion of a nutritional supplement consisting essentially of an effective

amount of hyaluronic acid, or a salt or digest thereof, and a food or drink carrier, wherein the effective amount of hyaluronic acid, or a salt or digest thereof, is administered in repeat low doses of between 0.0001 mg and 100 mg.

98. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 97, further comprising the step of adding the hyaluronic acid, or a salt or digest thereof, to the carrier, and wherein the carrier comprises food or water.

99. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 97, wherein the nutritional supplement is provided in capsule form.

100. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 97, wherein the mammal is a human, an equine, a canine, or feline species.

101. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) A method for reducing discomfort of fibromyalgia in a person afflicted with fibromyalgia comprising the step of delivering to said person by oral ingestion a nutritional supplement consisting essentially of an effective amount of hyaluronic acid, or a salt or digest thereof, and a nutritionally acceptable carrier, wherein the effective amount of hyaluronic acid, or a salt or digest thereof, is administered in repeated low doses of between 0.0001 mg and 100 mg.

102. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 101, further comprising the step of adding the hyaluronic acid, or a salt or digest thereof, to the carrier, and wherein the carrier comprises food or water.

103. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 101, wherein the nutritional supplement is provided in capsule form.

104. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) A method for relieving joint pain or other discomforts associated with joint disorders in a mammal comprising the step of delivering to said mammal by oral ingestion a nutritional supplement consisting essentially of an effective amount of hyaluronic acid, or a salt or digest thereof, and a food or drink carrier, wherein the effective amount of hyaluronic acid, or a salt or digest thereof, is administered in repeated low doses of between 0.0001 mg 100 mg.

105. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 102, wherein the nutritional supplement is provided in tablet form.

106. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 104, further comprising the step of adding the hyaluronic acid, or a salt or digest thereof, to the carrier, and wherein the carrier comprises food or water.

107. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 104, wherein the nutritional supplement is provided in capsule form.

108. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 104, wherein the mammal is a human, an equine, a canine, or a feline species.

109. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 104, wherein the joint pain is the result of an arthritic condition.

110. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 104, wherein the arthritic condition is selected from the group consisting of osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis.

111. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 104, wherein the joint pain is the result of an inflammatory condition.

112. (Currently Amended) A nutritional supplement consisting essentially of an nutritionally effective amount of hyaluronic acid, or a salt or digest thereof, and a food or drink carrier, the nutritional supplement provided in an orally ingestible dosage form, wherein said hyaluronic acid or a salt or a digest thereof comprises at least one fraction having a molecular weight in the range of greater than 1,000,000 daltons as measured using a protein standard/intrinsic viscosity, wherein the hyaluronic acid, or a salt or digest thereof is present in an amount of between 0.01% and 5.0%wt/vol.

113. (Previously Presented) The nutritional supplement of claim 112, wherein the effective amount of hyaluronic acid is administered in repeated low doses of between 0.0001 mg and 100 mg.

114. (Previously Presented) The nutritional supplement of claim 112, wherein the orally ingestible dosage form is a capsule or gel seal.

115. (Previously Presented) Food or treat for horse or dog comprising the composition of claim 19.

116. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said glycosaminoglycans are administered in multiple low doses of between 0.0001 mg and 100 mg.

117. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising at least one orally digestable or mucosally absorbable glycosaminoglycan, wherein said glycosaminoglycan comprises at least one fraction having a molecular weight in the range of greater than 1,000,000 daltons as measured using a protein standard/intrinsic viscosity, and wherein the glycosaminoglycan contains up to 5% by weight protein contaminants, and wherein said at least one glycosaminoglycan is mixed in a drink, a drink mix, a food, a candy, a mouthwash, a toothpaste, a gargle, a vaporizer liquid, a gum, a lozenge, an ingestible gel, an ingestible foam, an ingestible capsule, an ingestible tablet, a chewable tablet, a dissolvable tablet, and an ingestible nutritional supplement administered in repeated low doses of between 0.0001 and 100 mg of the

glycosaminoglycan, with the proviso that when chondroitin sulfate is used as the sole glycosaminoglycan, the carrier is not a capsule or an ingestible tablet, wherein the glycosaminoglycan is present in an amount of between 0.01% and 5.0%wt/vol.

118. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 19, wherein said composition is a topical, oral or mucosal composition.

119. (Currently Amended) A nutritional supplement consisting essentially of an nutritionally effective amount of hyaluronic acid, or a salt or digest thereof, wherein said hyaluronic acid comprises at least one fraction having a molecular weight in the range of greater than 1,000,000 daltons, as measured using a protein standard/intrinsic viscosity and wherein the hyaluronic acid contains up to 5% by weight protein contaminants, wherein the hyaluronic acid, or a salt or digest thereof is present in an amount of between 0.01% and 5.0%wt/vol., the nutritional supplement provided in an orally ingestible dosage form, which is selected from the group consisting of a drink mix, a food, a candy, a gum, a lozenge, an ingestible gel, an ingestible foam, an ingestible capsule, an ingestible tablet, a chewable tablet, and a dissolvable tablet.

120. (Currently Amended) A composition which comprises a pharmacologically effective amount of at least one orally ingestible or mucosally absorbable glycosaminoglycan, wherein said glycosaminoglycan comprises at least one fraction having a molecular weight in the range of greater than 1,000,000 daltons as measured using a protein standard/intrinsic viscosity,

wherein the glycosaminoglycan is present in an amount of between 0.01% and 5.0%wt/vol., and wherein the glycosaminoglycan contains up to 5% by weight protein contaminants, with the proviso that said composition does not contain an essential oil as an active ingredient, and a suitable carrier.

121. (Currently Amended) A nutritional supplement consisting essentially of a pharmacologically effective amount of hyaluronic acid, or a salt or digest thereof, wherein said hyaluronic acid comprises at least one fraction having a molecular weight in the range of greater than 1,000,000 daltons as measured using a protein standard/intrinsic viscosity, and wherein the hyaluronic acid contains up to 5% by weight protein contaminants, wherein the hyaluronic acid is present in an amount of between 0.01% and 5.0%wt/vol., the nutritional supplement provided in an orally ingestible dosage form.

122. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 19, wherein said glycosaminoglycan are administered in repeated low doses of between 0.0001 mg to 100 mg.

123. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 70, wherein said glycosaminoglycans are administered in repeated low doses of between 0.0001 mg and 100 mg.

124. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 19, wherein the adverse reaction is selected from at least one of the groups consisting of irritation, blistering and rash.

125. (Currently Amended) A nutritional supplement comprising hyaluronic acid, or a salt or digest thereof, wherein said hyaluronic acid comprises at least one fraction having a molecular weight in the range of greater than 1,000,000 daltons as measured using a protein standard/intrinsic viscosity, wherein said salt, derivative or digest of hyaluronic acid contains protein contaminants up to 5% by weight, wherein the hyaluronic acid is present in an amount of between 0.01% and 5.0%wt/vol.

126. (Currently Amended) A composition which comprises an orally ingestable or mucosally absorbable salt, derivative or digest of hyaluronic acid wherein said salt, derivative or digest of hyaluronic acid comprises at least one fraction having a molecular weight in the range of greater than 1,000,000 daltons as measured using a protein standard/intrinsic viscosity, wherein said salt, derivative or digest of hyaluronic acid contains protein contaminants up to 5% by weight, and wherein said salt, derivative or digest of hyaluronic acid is nutritionally or pharmacologically effective and wherein said salt, derivative or digest of hyaluronic acid is present in an amount of between 0.01% and 5.0%wt/vol.

127. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 126, wherein the composition is in the form of a drink, a drink mix, a food, a candy, a mouthwash, a toothpaste, a gargle, a vaporizer liquid, a gum, a lozenge, an ingestable gel, a liquid, an ingestable foam, an ingestable capsule, a tablet, an ingestable tablet, an ingestable dissolvable tablet, a suppository, and an ingestable nutritional supplement, with the proviso that when chondroitin sulfate is used as the sole glycosoaminoglycan, the carrier is not a capsule or an ingestable tablet.

128. (Currently Amended) A composition which comprises, ~~as an active ingredient,~~ a pharmacologically effective amount of at least one orally ingestable or mucosally absorbable mixture of molecular weight ranges of hyaluronic acid, wherein said molecular weight ranges comprise at least one fraction greater than 1,000,000 daltons as measured using a protein standard/intrinsic viscosity, and wherein the hyaluronic acid contains up to 5% by weight protein contaminants, wherein the hyaluronic acid is present in an amount of between 0.01% and 5.0%wt/vol.,

and

a carrier selected from the group consisting of a drink, a drink mix, a food, a candy, a mouthwash, a toothpaste, a gargle, a vaporizer liquid, a gum, a lozenge, an ingestable gel, an ingestable foam, an ingestable capsule, a tablet, an ingestable tablet, an ingestable dissolvable tablet, a suppository, and an ingestable nutritional supplement.

129. (Currently Amended) A composition which comprises:

an orally or mucosally pharmacologically effective amount of at least one orally ingestable or mucosally absorbable glycosaminoglycan, wherein said glycosaminoglycan comprises at least one fraction having a molecular weight in the range of greater than 1,000,000 daltons, as measured using a protein standard/intrinsic viscosity, with the proviso that said composition does not contain an essential oil as an active ingredient, and wherein the complex carbohydrate contains up to 5% by weight protein contaminants, wherein the glycosaminoglycan is present in an amount of between 0.01% and 5.0%wt/vol.,

and

a carrier selected from the group consisting of a drink, a drink mix, a food, a candy, a mouthwash, a toothpaste, a gargle, a vaporizer liquid, a gum, a lozenge, an ingestable gel, an ingestable foam, an ingestable capsule, a tablet, an ingestable tablet, an ingestable dissolvable tablet, a suppository, and an ingestable nutritional supplement, with the proviso that when chondroitin sulfate is used as the sole glycosaminoglycan, the carrier is not a capsule or an ingestable tablet.

130. (Currently Amended) A composition which comprises:

an orally or mucosally administered glycosaminoglycan that produces a pharmacological effect, wherein said glycosaminoglycan comprises at least one fraction having a molecular weight in the range of greater than 1,000,000 daltons, as measured using a protein standard/intrinsic viscosity, with the proviso that said composition does not contain an essential oil as an active ingredient, and wherein the complex carbohydrate contains up to 5% by weight protein contaminants, wherein the glycosaminoglycan is present in an amount of between 0.01% and 5.0%wt/vol.,

and

a carrier selected from the group consisting of a drink, a drink mix, a food, a candy, a mouthwash, a toothpaste, a gargle, a vaporizer liquid, a gum, a lozenge, an ingestable gel, an ingestable foam, an ingestable capsule, a tablet, an ingestable tablet, an ingestable dissolvable tablet, a suppository, and an ingestable nutritional supplement, with the proviso that when chondroitin sulfate is used as the sole glycosaminoglycan, the carrier is not a capsule or an ingestable tablet.

131. (New) The composition of claim 19, wherein the glycosaminoglycan is present in a total concentration of between 0.01% and 3.0% wt/vol.

132. (New) The composition of claim 19, wherein said at least one glycosaminoglycan is the sole active ingredient.